[Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Renaissance: Primary Source Analysis #1**

**Historical Context:** The documents below illustrate the changing view of individuals that occurred during and after the Renaissance.

**Your Task:** Study the documents and answer the questions that follow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENT 1: The Dignified Man

In 1487 an Italian nobleman and scholar, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, prepared a speech called “Oration on the Dignity of Man.” The work assumes the point of view of God speaking to Adam after his creation.

The nature of all other beings is limited and constrained within the bounds of laws prescribed by Us. Thou [you], constrained by no limits, in accordance with thine own free will, in whose hand We have placed thee, shalt ordain for thyself the limits of thy nature. We have set thee at the world’s center that thou mayest from thence more easily observe whatever is in the world. We have made thee neither of heaven nor of earth, neither mortal nor immortal, so that with freedom of choice and with honor, as though the maker and molder of thyself, thou mayest fashion [make] thyself in whatever shape thou shalt prefer.

1. Why does humanity have a special place in the universe, according to Mirandola?
2. What is the relationship between God and humanity in Mirandola’s eyes?
3. What evidence of the Renaissance ideologies of **secularism, humanism, individuality,** and **skepticism**do you see in this passage? Give textual evidence.

DOCUMENT 2: Individuals and Accomplishments

Wealthy people with access to education began learning not just religious or practical things, but things that interested them. Geography, music, art, and mathematics were learned because they interested the student, not in order to obtain employment or gain salvation. This painting of two French ambassadors by Hans Holbein shows items associated with subjects that the two men have studied.



4. What subjects are the ambassadors interested in learning? What evidence supports your answer?

1. What evidence of the Renaissance ideologies of **secularism, humanism, individuality,** and **skepticism** do you see in this painting? Give evidence.